

27 June 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

This memorandum is for information only.

CIA, whiskey, women, vulgar conversation, and an interesting plot are ingredients of a new novel by Walter Hermann, Operation Intrigue, (Avon, 575 Madison Avenue, New York City, 1956, 25 cents, pocket book). The plot deals with a psywar project in Communist China, which in turn is part of "Operation Minotaur" -- an operation to land a force on the coast south of Shanghai.

The "CIA project" is called a "cunning masterpiece of deadly deceit" (p. 13), and is handled by a "cover" organization, the Benedict Corporation, "with CIA as the poppa and G-2 as the momma" (p. 8), and properly approved by the NSC (p. 12). Other agencies also flit in and out of the story, including State Department research experts, vice consuls and labor attaches, various G-2 personnel, Naval Intelligence, and the FBI.

The allusions to "C.I.A." are numerous from the first page to the last (p. 127). The 5-man Benedict Corporation is set up in Washington, by CIA, and soon two Chinese-American girls, who are properly cleared "warm young pieces of American womanhood," are provided by CIA (p. 14). CIA also has a "headquarters" at Formosa, to which it gives the code name of "Grand Central" (p. 24). There is reference to a "building on a hill near the old gas works" in Washington (p. 6).

Various types of CIA personnel also weave in and out of the story. There are CIA couriers of all kinds, including CIA couriers who carry briefcases opened by two different keys (p. 17); CIA psychiatrists who examine one of the men for "emotional exhaustion" and "nervous breakdown" (p. 29); CIA "security officers", "security specialists", and "CIA guards" (pp. 36, 103, 102);

"CIA agents" who call themselves "professional snoops" (p. 42); "CIA doctors" (p. 95), and a "pale" CIA doctor (p. 113); "hawkfaced" CIA agents (pp. 99, 102), "tall thin agents" (p. 107); and simply "CIA characters."

There are also "middle class clods of the CIA and the FBI."

One of the agents "mutters" to himself at one point (p. 51) that

"The CIA people and the alert FBI types..., professional brooders, were always working out the angles on their built-in slide rules. They were good at it, too, those grim scholars of human geometry."

Another agent comments that, like the enemy, "we" (U. S. Intelligence):

"have too many experts and technicians -- too many splendid but stupid wire-tappers and code-breakers and sharpshooters. That's not what makes an intelligence agent, he muttered softly; it takes wit and judgment and imagination." (p. 57).

Toward the end of the book, the "CIA" project leader says:

"We'll still need top-notch men in the Central Intelligence Agency, men who know the score, who can think and judge. We're overstocked on cowboys in Washington, but we can use more adults." (p. 120).

A copy of the book is sent herewith.

STANLEY J. GROGAN

Enclosure